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# *LITTLE & LITTLE*

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31 July 2009

## **PUBLIC MEETING REPORT STRICKLAND ROAD PARK PHASE I**

**Date of Meeting:** July 28, 2009, 7-8:30 PM  
**Location:** Lake Lynn Community Center

The following is a summary of the primary points of the meeting:

Cassie Schumacher-Georgopoulos, Raleigh Parks & Recreation project manager for the Strickland Road Park project, welcomed the meeting attendees, including City Council members Rodger Koopman and Russ Stephenson and approximately twelve members of the public. She introduced Parks & Recreation staff members present.

### Project Schedule

The plans presented represent 30% construction design for Phase 1 of the design shown on the approved Master Plan. Construction is expected to start in March, with completion in late fall. This public meeting provides an opportunity for public comment on the proposed work. The Public Comment period extends till August 11. The plans and comments will be presented to the Parks Recreation and Greenways Advisory Board at their August 20 meeting.

### Presentation of Phase 1 Design

Amy Mackintosh of Little & Little presented the design for the Phase 1. The first priority will be to provide access to the park, required road improvements on Strickland Road, and address safety issues within the park including demolition of existing structures and fencing along the steep west bank of the main pond. The design documents will also include a water line, a playground, picnic tables and other mulched trails. These will be bid as add-alternates and constructed if budget allows.

### Plan components:

- Pavement widening for a left-turn lane approaching the park driveway on Strickland Road, with tapers extending a short distance beyond the park frontage
- A two lane asphalt driveway into the park, with an additional outbound lane at the entrance for left and right turns onto Strickland Road.
- A 33-space asphalt parking lot.
- An 8' asphalt trail along the driveway from Strickland Road to the main trail head (required accessible route) and playground area.
- A 6" water line and mulched park access trail from Portview Drive to the main trail head.
- Mulched trail along Strickland Road from the driveway to the eastern property line.
- Additional unpaved trail along existing driveway, with connections to each end of main paved trail.
- Demolition of existing structures, fencing and dock.
- Split rail fence or similar along western edge of Pond #1 (along steep bank below existing house)
- Two solar powered LED lights at parking lot and main trail head.

- Playground with three small “pods”, for swings, preschool aged children and 5-12 year olds. Existing wooded areas will be preserved between the pods and around the playground for natural play opportunities and shade.
- Picnic tables near the playground.

Storm drainage will be primarily via swales and sheet drainage, with pipes under drives and walks only. A plunge pool is proposed to slow runoff from the Strickland Road. A bioretention area is proposed to improve water quality from rainwater runoff from the parking lot and the entrance drive.

Public Questions / Comments:

1. Will there be a gate at the entrance? We were told during the Master Plan process that a gate might be possible if we could provide a volunteer to open and shut it.

**Response: No, the Parks Department is phasing out gates from the parks due to management and logistical issues and is not including gates in new parks.**

**P&R has moved away from gating parks due to customer service issues with timing of opening and closing the gate (too late/too early) and security issues. A gate would deter police officers from driving into the park at night even when given a key and while a gate might deter vehicle traffic, police response time would be lengthened, leading to issues with someone fleeing on foot.**

2. Add the word “Unlit” to the “Future Field” label to conform with the Master Plan intent.

**Response: We will add this to the plans. Note that the Master Plan provides the guidance for future development of the park. The construction plans are just for current construction.**

3. Eliminate the mulch trail along Strickland Road because it might encourage parking along Strickland Road and/or Roundtree neighborhood streets where the covenants prohibit on-street parking. It does not seem to serve a useful purpose. (Roundtree resident)

4. Keep the trail along Strickland Road so we can ride our bikes or walk to the park from Carlswood Court. (Carlswood Court resident).

**Response: The 33 parking spaces in the park are expected to provide ample parking for the facilities planned in Phase 1 so people driving in the park are unlikely to park elsewhere in the neighborhood. The mulch trail was included because of requests during the Master Plan process for pedestrian access to the park from the east and south. Pedestrian access will still be difficult beyond the park boundaries, because NCDOT will not allow a crosswalk unless there is sufficient pedestrian use after the park is completed to justify it and there is no sidewalk along Strickland Road east or west of the park.**

5. What will the lights look like? How tall are they? Will we be able to see them from our house? (Roundtree neighbor). Will they be on all night? Are there any installed elsewhere in town that we can look at?

**Response: The lights will be similar to typical parking lot lights, probably about 30’ tall. They are directed downward so should not provide much light out to the sides. They will be about 450’-550’ from the nearest points on the property lines with relatively dense woods including pines between them and neighboring properties. You may be able to see a twinkle of light but not a bright beam. They will be on all night, controlled by a light sensor. This type of light is currently installed at the Parks Department’s Marsh Creek Maintenance Facility, but this area is not easily accessible to the public. A photograph of these lights is included below. Note that there will only be two lights at Strickland Road Park, so the area will not be as bright as the site shown in this picture.**



6. Will there be a ditch or steep drop-off between the Strickland Road and the mulch trail?

**Response: The slope is relatively gradual down to the trail and there is no ditch in this area.**

7. Will the park be on sewer or septic system?

**Response: Sewer, but this will not be installed until a future phase. Phase 1 does not include restroom facilities.**

8. What is planned for the playground? Will there be another opportunity to comment on playground design? What about the nature play suggested in public comments during the Master Plan? Please – no bright primary colored equipment – use something that doesn't shine out in the woods.

**Response: The playground will include some standard play equipment, for reasons of safety, maintainability and durability – as well as fun. It will also offer opportunities for play in the wooded areas between and around the pods, and a sand play area in the preschool area. The colors will be selected to blend with the wooded setting with a muted palette. But not all beige and brown. There will not be another public comment period.**

9. Will cars be able to drive into the park from Portview Drive?

**Response: No, there will be a barrier to exclude vehicular access to that trail and other trails in the park, with locked collapsible bollards to allow official vehicles only. The only vehicles allowed on trails will be Parks Department, police and public safety.**

10. Why so few paved trails? Will there be any more paved trails through the park in future phases?

**Response: The Master Plan shows several paved trails including a loop within the park and connections to Wynbrooke subdivision north and west of the park, allowing a larger loop through the park and neighborhood. Phase 1 budget does not cover the cost of more paved trails, so mulch trails are being provided as an interim condition. These trails may be paved in a later phase.**

11. When will Phase 2 occur?

**Response: This has not been determined. It would depend on funding by a future Parks Bond. 5-7 years from now at least.**

12. Will there be another opportunity for public comment before Phase 2?

**Response: There will be a public meeting to review 30% construction documents.**

13. How is Phase 1 funded?

**Response: Funding is from the 2000 Parks Bond.**

14. Will there be information stations along trails? Tree ID, etc? Or exercise stations?

**Response: These are not included in this project. However they would make a good Eagle Scout project. Exercise stations have not proved to be as much used as initially hoped when they were introduced some years ago. They are also prone to vandalism.**

Minutes Prepared by:

Amy Mackintosh

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These notes were prepared with the intent of recording all pertinent topics discussed. In the event of oversights or discrepancies, please contact Amy with corrections.